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TO: John Morfit, for STAP Distribution

FROM: Dave Bobrow

SUBJECT: Thoughts Triggered by Josh

1. Differential ease of immigration seems to provide a good sampling and focusing variable. I would expect real insights to follow not from the general properties of those who exit readily versus those who are long delayed, but rather from the anomalous cases. It might be interesting to present a report at the next STAP meeting on the way in which such a pattern search would be conducted -- especially with regard to the coding scheme -- and (who knows?) perhaps even some initial results. I would hope such an effort would include economics and the information sciences as well as the physical and life sciences.
2. On the effects of "foreign protest" attempts to secure departure for scientists, I know of no theory or even systematic analysis on the subject. It seems to me to be a subset of a class of non-governmental and governmental actions in the human rights area which are not well-understood even though they are engaged in repeatedly by groups in this and other countries. Given the importance of the subject, especially in the light of the Helsinki accords and recent U.S. Congressional actions, a thoughtful "mapping" study on the impact of foreign actions on emigration policy with regard to specialists seems appropriate. It could almost certainly be unclassified and would need to involve historians or political analysts as well as persons knowledgeable about the scientific community. The study would do well to look at the experience with Nazi Germany as well as that with contemporary non-Communist regimes in Asia and Latin America.